

Trina George was appointed on June 29, 2009, by President Barack Obama to serve as Mississippi's Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development. She has made history by being the first woman appointed in this position for the State of Mississippi. In her new role, she is charged with assisting residents of rural Mississippi with a range of programs such as: Affordable Housing, Water Systems Upgrades, and Economic Development Efforts. Rural development also provides grant and loan assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations for fire and police protection as well as health clinics, libraries and other facilities for public use. She is an advocate for rural communities throughout the state to assist with their growth, development and sustainability.

Prior to this appointment, Mrs. George served for 15 years as a Special Project Coordinator for Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON where she resolved community and constituency issues by thinking inside, outside and around the box. Her hands-on experience in the Congressional Office served as an ideal prerequisite for her role in rural economic development and community participation for the State of Mississippi.

Mrs. George served on many civic organizations, including education and volunteer groups. She is actively involved in the community where she is: a Board Member for the Heart of the South Girl Scouts Council, which serves Northern Mississippi and Southern Tennessee; and a Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, and Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master's Degree from Mississippi State University. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University. Also, she holds a Professional Certificate in Management and Leadership from the NeighborWorks Training Institute of America in Washington, DC.

Mrs. George is an important advocate for rural communities throughout the state. She administers and manages over 40 programs which include: housing; business and cooperative programs; community programs; and community facilities which are designed to improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development is an agency that the Obama Administration wants to see in the forefront of efforts to promote renewable energy and conservation of natural resources while ensuring a safe, sustainable, nutritious food supply through the Agency's cooperatives for present and future users.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Trina George, a director, leader and advocate, who is improving the quality of life for rural America.

#### CONGRATULATING SARAH KAPLAN

##### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Sarah Kaplan for her many contributions to the New Democrat Coalition. At the end of this year, Sarah will be leaving the New Dem staff to continue graduate school full-time.

The New Democrat Coalition, which I have the pleasure to lead as Chair, is a group of 55

pro-growth, innovative solutions oriented Members of the House Democratic Caucus. The New Dems are committed to a growth agenda that speaks to Americans' hopes for a brighter economic future. Whether it's revolutionizing the ways we prepare people for the jobs of the future, encourage a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, or maintaining America's competitiveness in a rapidly-shifting global economy, the New Dems continue to work to advocate these priorities and modernize the policy and messaging of the Democratic Caucus.

Sarah joined the New Dem staff in May 2013 as a staff assistant and research associate. She hit the ground rolling and was valuable at the start to the Members and staff of the Coalition. Recognizing her growth in the office, she was promoted to Policy & Member Services Aide where she assisted the New Dem Leadership Team and the Executive Director in strengthening the cohesion of the Coalition and advancing our policy priorities. Sarah was particularly valuable in working on the Coalition's innovation, education, national security, and trade policy priorities.

Next year, Sarah expects to earn a Masters in Security Studies with a focus on Terrorism and Substance Violence from Georgetown University. After earning her graduate degree, she plans to continue serving our nation by re-joining government in national security policy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the New Democrat Coalition, thank you Sarah.

#### TRIBUTE TO KAREN L. DAILY

##### HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a truly amazing Hoosier, Mrs. Karen L. Daily, who passed from this world to the next on December 7, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her leadership and service to our community, state, and country.

Karen served for many years as Deputy Clerk before her election by the people of Benton County to three non-consecutive terms as Clerk of the Circuit Court. As a member of the Association of Clerks of the Circuit Courts of Indiana, Karen was chosen several times by her peers to serve as Treasurer. She was actively involved in the organization, devoting time to advocate on behalf of her profession while also serving on the Legislative Committee.

Though I had known Karen for many years, it was not until after my election as Secretary of State that I realized how truly blessed the people of Indiana were to have such a tireless and professional public servant. She used her talents as a voice for rural communities on the Statewide Voter Registration System Steering Committee, a group tasked with the responsibility to develop and implement a single voter file for the State of Indiana. Each month, her leadership was evident in the actions taken by the committee to integrate the system statewide. Through her leadership, the system came online on time, worked well from the beginning, and saved Indiana millions of dollars.

Karen leaves four children, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren to carry

on her legacy of community service and joins her late husband Larry, in eternity. I am a better leader and public servant because of the lessons learned and advice received from Karen. She was a true friend and mentor.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I am humbled to honor Karen here today. She will be missed for her friendship, leadership and most of all, her character. God bless you, Karen.

#### SPEECH OF

HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN AND CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER ON THEIR RETIREMENT

##### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2014*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the long and distinguished career of Congressman HENRY WAXMAN.

Congressman WAXMAN's career speaks for itself. He has been at the forefront of many of the most important legislative and policy battles of the past four decades. From combating Big Tobacco to championing the Affordable Care Act, HENRY has been an indispensable voice in the House. It was an honor to serve with him and I commend his long and storied career.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Congressman WAXMAN on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. During our time together on the Oversight Committee, we focused on investigations into cost overruns and money wasted on reconstruction in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman HENRY WAXMAN in the United States House of Representatives.

#### HONORING SHERIFF PATRICK B PEREZ

##### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Patrick B Perez and his tenure as the Sheriff of Kane County.

Sheriff Perez retired on Sunday, November 30th, 2014 after over 22 years of service to Kane County. Since becoming the first Hispanic sheriff of Kane County in 2006, Sheriff Perez had many successes, including his efforts to combat gang violence, heroin and other substance abuse problems in Kane County. During his tenure, the city of Aurora saw a 13-month period from 2012-2013 of no reported murders. Sheriff Perez oversaw the creation of the agency's website, which sees more than one million visitors a year, and the construction of a new shooting range for the 244 officers who must show competence with their weapons twice a year. He also led successful charitable efforts and community outreach programs, such as the citizens' police academy and the annual car show.

He served with professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a sense of duty to the officers under his command and the community they